AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): An artificial intervertebral disk insertable between two adjacent vertebral bodies of a patient, the artificial intervertebral disk comprising:

two outer elements, each associated with one of the two vertebral bodies disposed parallel to a first plane; and[[,]]

an intermediate element having an annular closed ~~oval~~ shape ~~and defines an annular central axis,~~ and ~~has an ogival or~~ oval or circular cross-section ~~crosswise to the annular central axis~~ in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane, at least in sections, in an uncompressed state of the intermediate element, wherein the intermediate element joins the two outer elements in a restricted, articulated manner such that torsional moments and shear forces are transmittable, wherein each of the two outer elements have an annular recess ~~and~~ with a concave contour and is joined in a form-fitting manner to the intermediate element at the recess~~contour~~, and wherein the contour ~~forms a recess and~~ is oversized relative to the intermediate element such that a radius of the contour is greater than a radius of the intermediate element and a compression of the intermediate element allows a defined deformation of the intermediate element ~~disk~~.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the contour has a friction-optimized surface texture.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the contour has a surface texture that increases the friction, at least in sections, so as to create a frictional connection between the two elements and the intermediate element at the sections.

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the compression stems from a movement by the patient.

Claim 22-24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the intermediate element defines an annular central axis and has differing cross sections in a direction of the central axis and wherein the contour is correspondingly shaped.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein a cross section of the intermediate element is widened in at least one of a sagittal plane, an intermediate plane, a frontal plane and a transversal plane of the patient.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the intermediate element is at least partially made of a polymer.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 27, wherein the polymer includes polyethylene.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 15, wherein the two outer elements include anchoring elements disposed on a side facing the vertebral bodies and configured to anchor the outer elements in the bone of the vertebral bodies.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 29, wherein the anchoring elements include anchoring pins.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 29, wherein the outer elements and anchoring elements are coated with a biocompatible material on the side facing the vertebral bodies.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The intervertebral disk as recited in claim 31, wherein the biocompatible material includes titanium.

Claim 33 (new): An artificial intervertebral disk insertable between two adjacent vertebral bodies of a patient, the artificial intervertebral disk comprising:

two outer elements, each associated with one of the two vertebral bodies; and

an intermediate element having an annular closed shape disposed in a first plane, wherein the intermediate element is disposed between the two outer elements, and wherein the intermediate element forms a circular or ovular cross-section in a second plane perpendicular to the first plane in an uncompressed state.